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estimate the effect of this distribution upon the civilization and moral tone of the country?

The difficulties encountered by the society enhance the interest of the story which Mr. Dwight has told. It is pleasant to read of the manner in which obstacles were surmounted and to observe how nearly every effort, however uncompromising it might seem at the beginning, bettered expectation in the outcome. Particularly agreeable is it to read of the faithfulness of many of the Southern auxiliaries in the earlier years of the war and how the Bible passed across the lines without question as by a special dispensation. Such things make the ideal of a universal Christian community seem less remote.

A-B-C OF GOLF. By John Duncan Dunn. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1916.

In the *A-B-C of Golf*, John Duncan Dunn reduces the science of the golfing stroke, i.e. the full drive, to its simplest possible element—body balance. It is only when the body is kept in perfect poise that the player can put the full measure of his strength into the blow; otherwise a large proportion of his available energy must be wasted in keeping himself from pitching forward on his nose, or in simulating the physical agonies of a contortionist. Manifestly, if one has to fight to keep his feet, he won't have much margin of power to put into the ball.

The same theory has been advanced by Mr. Marshall Whitlatch, an earnest student of golfing technique; moreover, Mr. Whitlatch offered a guaranteed panacea against all varieties of non-balance: "Keep the head still—absolutely so—and everything will come right." This dictum at least possessed the merit of simplicity, but the results in practice were not invariably satisfactory, and it made golf a particularly dull kind of business.

The author of the *A-B-C of Golf* points out that we are all born tent-peggers, and he invites us to take up that particular position and notice how smoothly the full power of the body can be put into the stroke: one can't help hitting with accuracy and force. And the reason is very simple—the weight of the body lies naturally in the same plane with the application of the force. Now with the golfer, the club-head moves in an entirely different plane, and its movements must be perfectly synchronized with those of the body muscles if satisfactory results are to be obtained; with the body coming into the same stroke a hairbreadth too soon or too late the stroke is ruined.

The only way in which this all-important "timing" can be secured is the maintenance of adequate body poise or balance. When the body is in balance it will come into the stroke at the precise instant that it is needed; the player does not ever have to think about

it. Moreover, the full power of the body, or weight, will then be utilized and the utmost possible efficiency conferred upon the stroke. The argument seems to be conclusive, but how are we to arrive at the happy conditions upon which success depends? The answer to this question is the book itself, in which the author gives his pupil a certain series of "setting-up" exercises designed to show him how he may attain correctly the top of the swing and how he should feel when he gets there. The only other thing is to hit as hard as possible.

The manual is illustrated by line drawings accurately reproduced from photographs of the author in action. The bulk of the text is devoted to the full driving swing, but that, in the eyes of the average golfer (not to say duffer), is *the* master-stroke, iron play and putting being merely incidental considerations.

Many ponderous tomes have been written on the art of golf, but it is more than doubtful if anyone ever learned to play from a perusal of their pages. At least the *A-B-C of Golf* presents a reasonable working theory and so is worthy of attention from the 12-handicap golfer.